

REMARKS

Claims 25 and 27-38 were pending in the application. Claims 25, 30 and 35 have been amended. Claim 29 has been canceled. No claims have been added. Therefore, claims 25, 27-28 and 30-38 are now pending in the application. Reconsideration of the application is requested for at least the reasons that follow.

Claim for Priority

A Supplemental Application Data Sheet is enclosed herewith to correct a typographical error. The present application is a divisional application of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/604,319, not 10/605,319. In addition, the specification has been amended to correct this typographical error.

Allowable Subject Matter

The indication that claims 35-38 contain allowable subject matter is appreciated. Claim 35 has been rewritten into independent form and, therefore, claim 35 and dependent claims 36-38 are now in condition for allowance.

Rejections

Claim 30 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fig. 5 (labeled "Prior Art") of the present application. The rejection should be withdrawn because Fig. 5 fails to disclose, teach or suggest the claimed invention. For example, Fig. 5 does not disclose, teach or suggest "wherein the webbing includes a second stitching located entirely outside of a loop portion to connect the end of the webbing to the webbing," as called for in amended claim 30. On the contrary, Fig. 5 only shows stitches 126 positioned on the loop portion 116. *See* Application at Fig. 5. Thus, the rejection should be withdrawn. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 30 is respectfully requested.

Claims 25, 27, 28 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,301,977 ("Stojanovski"). Claims 25 and 30 are independent. The rejection should be withdrawn because Stojanovski fails to disclose, teach or suggest the claimed

invention. For example, Stojanovski fails to disclose stitching to “wherein the webbing includes a second stitching located entirely outside of the loop portion to connect the end of the webbing to the webbing,” as called for in amended claims 25 and 30.

Stojanovski only discloses stitching 56. *See* Stojanovski at Figs. 7 and 9. However, stitching 56 merely forms the belt loop. *See* Stojanovski at col. 3, lines 59-62. The seat belt 12 of Stojanovski does not include any stitching “located entirely outside of the loop portion.” Therefore, the rejection of claims 25 and 30 should be withdrawn. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 25 and 30 is respectfully requested.

Claims 27-28 depend from claim 25 and are allowable therewith, for at least the reasons set forth above, without regard to the further patentable limitations set forth in these dependent claims.

Claim 30 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,336,371 (“O’Boyle”). The rejection should be withdrawn because O’Boyle fails to disclose, teach or suggest the claimed invention. For example, O’Boyle fails to disclose, teach or suggest “webbing located in the opening [that] is folded” as called for in claim 30. O’Boyle shows a loop portion of the webbing that loops around tongue 24 in slot 26. *See* O’Boyle at Fig. 1. The seat belt 80 of O’Boyle does not include a seat belt with both a loop portion and webbing folded in slot 26. Thus, the rejection of claim 30 should be withdrawn. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 30 is respectfully requested

Claims 31-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,891,272 (“Takada”). The rejection should be withdrawn because Takada fails to disclose teach or suggest the claimed invention. For example, Takada fails to disclose “a transition portion that fans out from the folded portion to join the unfolded portion of the seat belt” as recited in claim 31. The Office Action states that Takada discloses a unfolded portion 34 shown in Fig. 5, a folded portion where stitching 38 is located, a looped portion formed by first stitching 39 and a transition portion that is below the folded portion. *See* Office Action at p. 3. However, if the transition portion is below the folded portion, then the transition portion cannot join the unfolded portion, which is above the folded portion. *See*

Takada at Figs. 4 and 5. Thus, the alleged transition portion shown in Fig. 4 of Takada does not "join the unfolded portion of the seat belt" as called for in claim 31. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

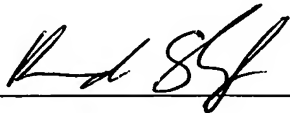
Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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